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BOYCE TESTIFIES ABOUT LAX SECURITY AT TRW
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WASHINGTON

Christopher Boyce, convicted for selling the Soviets top secret data on U.S. spy satellites, said Thursday security at the defense center where he worked was 'a joke,' letting him photograph and remove ultra-sensitive documents and codes day and night.

Boyce, now serving a 68-year sentence at a federal prison at Marion, Ill., said 'security was a joke ... there was none' at TRW Inc. at Redondo Beach, Calif., which was handling top secret defense work for the Pentagon, the CIA and the National Security Agency.

He was brought from Illinois under heavy guard to testify at an overflow session of the Senate Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Investigations for its final hearing on security precautions -- or the lack thereof -- at companies with defense contracts.

'In early 1974 at the age of 21,' Boyce said, 'I took my first stumbling steps towards the KGB' shortly after he joined TRW. He said he was given only a nominal security check because he got the job through 'the old boy network' as his father was a retired FBI agent working as a security manager at another defense contractor.

'I should have been interviewed in great detail regarding my lifestyle and attitudes,' he said. That lifestyle, he said, included association with 'disillusioned longhairs, counter-culture falconers, druggie surfers, several wounded paranoid vets, pot-smoking, anti-establishment types, bearded malcontents generally, many of whom were in trouble.' He said he had used a variety of drugs.

One of that group was his closest friend, Andrew Daulton Lee, the 'outside' man who sold the Soviets the documents Boyce supplied. Lee, who was a heroin addict, is serving a life sentence for his part in the case.

Their exploits were dramatized in the book and film, 'The Falcon and the Snowman.'

Boyce said despite his lack of extensive security clearance, he was assigned to the top secret 'Black Vault' at TRW where the most sensitive documents were kept along with codes and communication links with the CIA.

'I was unsupervised at any time,' he said, and allowed free entrance to and from the Black Room with packages that never were inspected.

'On more than a dozen occasions, I removed documents from TRW and photographed them. On approximately six occasions, probably more, I personally photographed documents while within the vault itself,' he said.

The Black Vault became like a private club for employees 'cleared' to work there.

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"We brought in an uncleared company locksmith and altered the numbers of the vault (door) tumblers ... to prevent unauthorized access by our superiors," he said. "We regularly partied and boozed it up during working hours. The document shredder was used as a blender "for making banana daiquiris and mai tais."

Boyce escaped from his first prison in 1980 and was on the loose for 18 months before a friend turned him in for the reward.

He said he has brooded constantly over his espionage role and suggested that the lack of security had encouraged him to steal.

"As we sit here," he said, "I would suspect that there are hundreds of other Americans out of the 4 million with security clearances who have given serious thought to espionage."

"I only wish, senators, that before more Americans take that irreversible step, they could know what I now know, that they are bringing down on themselves heartache more heavy than a mountain."